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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Buenos Aires, June 21, 1940.

No. 817

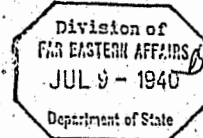
DR. HERMANN FREDERICK ERBEN

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1940 JUN 28 PM 1 14

DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND TRANSPORT



For Distribution-Check		Yes	No
Grade	To Rm. in U.S.A.		
For			

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington

Sir:

With reference to the Consulate General's strictly confidential despatches Nos. 754 and 776 of January 11 and 23, 1940, respectively, transmitting memoranda regarding the activities of Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, I have the honor to report that a member of the staff of this Embassy in a conversation with Mr. Errol Flynn, the motion picture actor, verified that Dr. Erben and Mr. Flynn are close friends.

Mr. Flynn stated that he had known Dr. Erben for about ten years and that they had worked together in Spain during the Spanish civil war. He spoke very

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130 - ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

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highly of Erben as a "magnificent physician" who, unfortunately, had a way of getting himself into all sorts of minor difficulties. He stated that the word which most aptly described Dr. Erben was "screw-ball". He added that Erben had been arrested in India for carrying a pistol and had almost gotten both of them shot in Spain.

He took a very strong stand with respect to Dr. Erben's character and integrity, and stated that Erben would be "the last man in the world to work for the Nazis, as he hated them with all his soul". Mr. Flynn went on to say that he valued Dr. Erben's friendship very highly and that he was a man who certainly could be trusted. However, he stated that the doctor's doing the wrong thing at the wrong time had often created a bad impression on those who did not know him very well. As for being a German agent, he stated that Dr. Erben would probably make the worst agent in the world for any nation, since "they have the finger on him in every port in the world". By this he explained that he meant that in a great many places Dr. Erben had been guilty of some minor infraction of local rules, such as not having the proper papers at the proper time, or saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

Mr. Flynn added that he understood that Dr. Erben's citizenship had been revoked, and remarked that he had taken the doctor's case up with Mr. Hood of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Los Angeles and with Mrs. Roosevelt, and that Mrs. Roosevelt had acted in Erben's behalf, but to no avail.

Finally

Finally, Mr. Flynn stated that he sympathized deeply with Dr. Erben, since he now was a man without a country, and that he felt that an injustice had been done the man in believing him to be a German agent, but that no one was to blame but Dr. Erben himself.

As an indication of Dr. Erben's lack of responsibility, it may be mentioned that during his stay in Argentina he made a trip to Montevideo at the time of the Admiral Graf Spee incident, despite warnings that his position in Argentina was precarious and he would probably have difficulty in re-entering the country. Upon his return from Montevideo he was imprisoned for want of proper documentation.

Respectfully yours,

Norman Armour
NORMAN ARMOUR

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In reply refer to
A-B 130 - Erben, Hermann Frederick.

July 2, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear General Miles:

Referring to previous correspondence regarding Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, I enclose a copy of STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL despatch no. 317 dated June 21, 1940 from the American Consul at Buenos Aires giving additional information regarding Dr. Erben.

Copies of this despatch are also being sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:
Copy of despatch.

Brigadier General Sherman Miles,
Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
War Department

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A-B

July 2, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR CAPTAIN NIXON:

In connection with previous communications regarding Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, there is enclosed a copy of STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL despatch no. 817 dated June 21, 1940 from the American Consul at Buenos Aires giving additional information regarding Dr. Erben.

Copies of this despatch are also being sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

Enclosure:
Copy of despatch.

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the signed original.
-al. by CB

03 JUL 1940

In reply refer to
A-B 130 - Erben, Hermann Frederick

July 2, 1940

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring to previous correspondence regarding Dr. Hermann Frederick Erben, I enclose a copy of STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL despatch no. 817 dated June 21, 1940 from the American Consul at Buenos Aires giving additional information regarding Dr. Erben.

Copies of this despatch are also being sent to the Offices of Military and Naval Intelligence.

Sincerely yours,

Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure:
Copy of despatch

The Honorable

J. Edgar Hoover, Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation,

Department of Justice.

A true copy of
the signed original.
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